Debora M. Nash
Village View
60, First Avenue
New York, NY 10009

The C B S Broadcasting Company
C B S Educational Services
383 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017

March 29, 1977

Gentlemen:

I was pleased and angered by your documentary "Who's Got A Right To Rhodesia (Zimbabwe)" on March 28th, pleased because education on these issues must be very important to the American people. Most Americans are living their routine lives with little or no conception of the injustice done to people in distant lands. However, documentary programs like the one on Rhodesia will teach the American public so much about which they know so little.

What angered me was the time you chose to broadcast this program. Why put it on at the same time as the Oscar Awards? Intelligent people wait until the next day to read the results in the paper, while the majority of the people who should learn about situations like those in Rhodesia, watch the Holywood events and thereby cannot gain any knowledge about the real world. People would rather watch glamorous movie stars than to concern themselves with conditions that might spoil their routine lives. But we all should know what is going on in the world, before we are caught up in trouble.

If you are interested in the education of the people, I suggest that you rerun the program at a time when a large portion of the public can watch it (not with anything else scheduled that might compete with it).

I thought the program was well put together and one can form a well rounded opinion of the situation in Rhodesia, it was very informative. Thank you for a job well done.

Yours very truly,
Debora M. Nash

cc: C B S T.V. Network Division
51 West 52nd Street
New York, NY 10019

RECEIVED
APR 4 - 1977
DOLORES SORA

CBS NEWS
A Division of Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.
524 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 765-4321

April 8, 1977

Ms. Debora M. Nash
Village View
60, First Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10009

Dear Ms. Nash:

I just want to thank you for your generous response to "Who's Got A Right To Rhodesia," and for taking the time and trouble to write.

I couldn't agree more with the points you've raised over the scheduling of the broadcast -- a decision we have no control over.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

Irv Drasnin
Producer

March 29, 1977

Dear Mr. Krasnik:

Your presentation March 28, of "Who's Got a Light To Rhodesia was par Excellance! It was indeed unfortunate however, that here in Phila. Pa., the program ran opposite the Academy Awards, and I say more! Counted many friends via phone who later called in appreciation.

Thus I write not only in praise, but to voice an opinion and desire to have this marvelous documentary rerun very, very soon.

Continued success, you are a great talent,

Sincerely

Evelyn Yancey
7404 Georgian Road
Phila. Pa. " 19, 38

CBS NEWS
A Division of Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.
524 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 765-4321

April 7, 1977

Ms. Evelyn Yancey
7404 Georgian Road
Philadelphia, Pa. 19138

Dear Ms. Yancey:

I very much appreciate your beautiful letter, and kind remarks regarding "Who's Got A Right To Rhodesia."

I'll happily pass along your sentiments to management, and to my colleagues who worked on the documentary.

Many thanks for taking the time and trouble to write.

Sincerely,

Irv Drasnin
Producer

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA
305 EAST 46th STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017 / (212) 838-5030 / Cable AMCOMMAF

March 30, 1977

Mr. Irv Drasnin, Producer
CBS News
524 West 57th Street
New York, NY 10019

Dear Mr. Drasnin:

I want to congratulate you on the very fine documentary on "Who's Got a Right to Rhodesia". I'm only sorry that it was running competitive with the Oscar Awards. That probably cut down on the viewing audience. I and my colleagues feel that you did a first-rate job in putting the whole struggle in perspective. I hope that some of our suggestions might have been useful to you.

Can you let me know whether copies of the film are available and under what circumstances. I'm sure there would be tremendous use for it in educational meetings around the country.

If we can do anything to help out in anyway please let us know.

Sincerely,

George M. Houser

GMH/dw

George M. Houser
Executive Director

President: William H. Booth/**Vice Presidents:** Elizabeth Landis/David Robinson/**Secretary:** Dorothy Hibbert/**Treasurer:** Jay Jacobson/**Executive Director:** George M. Houser/**Executive Associate:** Paul Irish/**Research Director:** Jennifer Davis/**Special Projects:** Raphael Gould/**Literature:** Richard Knight/**Membership:** Angela Passaro/**Finance:** Minette Kirson/Marvin Rich/**Administration:** Lynn Goodwin/Diana Warner

Washington Office On Africa: 110 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002/(202) 546-7961
Director: Edgar T. Lockwood/**Associates:** Christine Root/Kenneth Vickery

CBS NEWS
A Division of Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.
524 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 765-4321

April 5, 1977

Mr. George Houser
Executive Director
American Committee on Africa
305 East 46th Street
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Houser:

I very much appreciate your letter of 30 March 77 and your words of support for "Who's Got A Right To Rhodesia."

We also very much appreciated the assistance given us by you and your staff during our preparations prior to going to Rhodesia.

Unfortunately, we have no control over scheduling, but despite the fact we had to compete with the first hour of the Academy Awards broadcast, we still managed a respectable audience -- estimated at more than 10 million. Obviously, we would have done better without the Oscars.

Copies of the film should be available through CBS News. I suggest you contact Ms. May Dowell, Director of Special Projects, 524 West 57th Street, New York, New York 10019. The film should be available for non-profit, educational use. If you have any problems, please let me know.

Again, many thanks for your letter and your help.

Sincerely,

Irv Drasnin
Producer

P. O. Box 522
Summit, N. J. 07901

March 31, 1977

Mr. Irv Drasnin
CBS News Division
524 W. 57th Street
New York, N. Y. 10019

Dear Sir:

Your CBS News Special on Rhodesia on March 28, 1977 was the most inept attempt yet seen on Television to handle the Rhodesian problem.

You proved nothing! According to your concept and biased interpretation, the white man has no right to stay on in the country. Shall we say that could EQUALLY apply to the American immigrant?

Absolutely nothing was conceded to the white man, despite the fact that he built up from scrub bush and malaria infested plains, beautiful cities and a thriving economy without assistance from "hand-outs" as is customary today.

You talked of primitive enclaves called "keeps" and how the blacks would be shot if found outside the barbed wire after dark. Are you aware that it was essential for the safety of all concerned to remove the rural African from the reserves, or "kia gamina" - "my home" as they called the reserves? There is a war on - must I remind you - and the villagers were intimidated, beaten and killed by the guerrillas for information and food. You were trying to put across an audience, ignorant of African affairs, that the African lived this way permanently under white rule.

You interviewed the Roman Catholic Bishop "who has just been deported for his dissenting views." The Bishop was deported because he harbored guerrillas on his property and never informed the authorities. HE WAS LUCKY! In World War II he would have faced a firing squad.

When taking shots of hovels - plenty of these abound everywhere in the world including America - why not have shown the large hospital on the outskirts of Salisbury - built at a cost of over a million pounds, NOT dollars, and no American aid here!

Are you aware that the African was little removed from the stone age when the white man went in? Are you aware that the Matabele - ruled by a despot called Lobengula - living in his huge kraal called Gubuluwayo (now the town of Buluwayo), with his 100 wives, would systematically raid what is now Mashonaland,

Mr. Irv Drasnin

March 31, 1977

taking the women and cattle and murdering the men? At the turn of the century a Jesuit priest wrote - "even after 10 years of white occupation, the Mashona still bears a hunted look." The SAME tribalism is underlying the quarrels between the black leaders NOW vying for power.

I would like you to read the Editorial in Barron's dated March 21, 1977, and entitled "EMBARGO ON CHROME". It is a SANE view of the situation. All you are accomplishing Mr. Drasnin is to make it easier for Communism to take control of the whole of Africa.

Yours very truly,

A. M. Finnis

A. M. Finnis

/amf

CBS NEWS
A Division of Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.
524 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 765-4321

April 5, 1977

Mr. A.M. Finnis
P.O. Box 522
Summit, New Jersey 07901

Dear Mr. Finnis:

I have received your letter and read it.

We did not set out to "prove" anything in "Who's Got A Right To Rhodesia," but only to present both sides -- white and black -- and the facts as we found them.

You are entitled to your opinions, but your view of the broadcast itself suffers badly from selective perception and misinformation.

Sincerely,

Irv Drasnin
Producer

CBS
NEWS
A Division of CBS Inc.
524 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 765-4321

Dear Ms. Kelly: March 28, 1977

While it is not customary for me to write to television reviewers, an observation in your column today regarding the CBS News Special "Who's Got A Right To Rhodesia" demands a response.

The word "boys" was used in reference to the black Rhodesian guerillas on the advice of those Africans who were assisting us in the African township where we filmed. That is precisely how black Rhodesians themselves refer to the guerillas, and how the Shona term for the guerillas -- "vakomana" -- is translated.

The blacks advising me believed this to be the only way to elicit a black response to the politically sensitive question of their feelings regarding "the boys who are doing the fighting."

If, as you've described it, "Who's Got A Right To Rhodesia" was "sensitive, penetrating and powerful" in depicting that black-white society, it is doubtful that those who produced it could hold double-standards or patronizing views toward blacks. I assure you, in behalf of my colleagues and myself, we do not.

Sincerely,

Irv Drasnin
Producer

Ms. Katie Kelly
TV Department
The New York Post
210 South Street
New York, New York

cc Mr. Edwin Bolwell, Editor

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
LAW SCHOOL
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48202

RALPH SLOVENKO
PROFESSOR OF LAW AND PSYCHIATRY

(313) 577-3963 (OFFICE)
(313) 831-3080, EXT. 410 (RES.)

March 30, 1977

CBS-TV
524 W. 57th St.
New York, N.Y. 10019

Gentlemen:

I saw the CBS News documentary (if it can be called that), "Who's Got the Rights to Rhodesia?" Permit me to say that a more biased report on Rhodesia could not have been made even in Moscow.

I was also dismayed to read Mr. John O'Connor's review in the New York Times where he states that the producer, Irv Drasnin, "presents arguments for both sides." Like a pornographic film with an apple pie thrown in in order to give a socially redeeming dimension, Mr. Drasnin at the very end of the document throws in a reference to conditions in other countries in Africa. I would hope that some day there will be a documentary on conditions in Tanzania, Mozambique, Angola or any of the other so-called front-line countries.

To be sure, there is racial segregation in Rhodesia, but that is not by any means the entire story about Rhodesia. Indeed, compared to many places in the United States, Rhodesian segregation is mild indeed. One can walk through Highfield, the black township outside Salisbury, without fear of assault. Try walking through Detroit or Harlem!

There could have been so many interesting stories to tell about Rhodesia, for example, their wonderful city of Salisbury, their parks, their museums, and the work of such people as the Meikle brothers.

The documentary was like a flashlight in a dark room. It lit up a bit but left the rest of the room completely in the dark, thus giving us really a misrepresentation.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Ralph Slovenko

Ralph Slovenko
Professor of Law

RS/me

cc: Mr. John J. O'Connor
New York Times

CBS NEWS

A Division of Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.
524 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 765-4321

Dear Mr. Slovenko: April 8, 1977

Thank you for your letter regarding the CBS News broadcast "Who's Got A Right To Rhodesia."

While you are entitled to your view that the documentary was "biased" and a "misrepresentation", it is a view unsubstantiated either by your letter or by the facts. Your case is hardly strengthened by your reckless and intemperate language, which seems especially inappropriate for a professor of law and psychiatry.

Specifically, you seem to raise the following points:

1. The conditions in other African countries. I assure you that if and when CBS News undertakes a documentary report on Tanzania, Mozambique, Angola or any other country (or for that matter, Detroit or Harlem), that country will be examined as thoroughly and as fairly as possible, as was Rhodesia.

2. I agree that racial segregation is not the entire story in Rhodesia, nor was it presented as such in the broadcast. At least as much time and care were devoted in the broadcast to white Rhodesians and their views, as to blacks; and, while you may feel that Rhodesian segregation "is mild indeed," that feeling is not necessarily shared by black Rhodesians (or, for that matter, all whites). I think you would agree that they are in a better position to judge that than you or I.

3. I do not know specifically what "stories" you refer to regarding the city of Salisbury, its parks and museums, but they are not what is at issue in Rhodesia. Your reference to the Meikle Brothers suggests that your ties in Rhodesia might possibly exceed those of an impartial observer.

Sincerely,

Irv Drasnin
Producer

Mr. Ralph Slovenko
Wayne State University
Detroit, Michigan 48202

CBS MEMORANDUM

FROM: Jay McMullen
TO: IRV DRASNIN
DATE: March 30, 1977

Your broadcast on Rhodesia was great!! The organization, the writing, the editing, the interviewing - superb. As one who has tried to work in countries less than friendly to the U.S. press, I was extremely impressed with your ability to get access to sensitive material. All hands deserve a 24 gun salute.

J. M.

CBS MEMORANDUM

FROM: Irv Drasnin
TO: Alan Harper
DATE: 29 March 1977

Please let me offer an unsolicited testimonial---your program on Rhodesia was splendid. The issues became real, the difficulty of finding solutions made dramatically apparent as one saw the problems encased in people, the agony was almost palpable, and finally all that I've read and heard about that country came into sharper focus.

Thank you for a damn fine hour.

HOTEL WASHINGTON

PENNA AVE AT 15TH STREET

WASHINGTON, D.C., 20004

Mar 28 '77

Dear Irv,

I was alternatively in despair & enthralled by your masterful document on Rhodesia.

I wish you continued success,

Sincerely

Desmond Smith

General Manger
CBMT-TV
P.O. Box 6000
Montreal

800-424-9540

CBS
NEWS
A Division of CBS Inc.
524 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 765-4321

April 5, 1977

Dear Desmond:

I want you to know that I received and very much appreciate your note about the Rhodesia documentary. It is especially gratifying to hear approvingly from one's peers and it's good of you to take the time and trouble to write.

I hope all is well in Montreal and with you (it certainly is if you're a hockey fan!). Hopefully we'll see each other one of these days. Meanwhile, all my best.

Sincerely,

Irv Drasnin

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

POSTAL ADDRESS—ADRESSE POSTALE UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. 10017
CABLE ADDRESS—ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE UNATIONS NEWYORK

REFERENCE

31 March 1977

Dear Mr. Drasnin,

I would like to congratulate you for your superb programme on Rhodesia. I found it very balanced and I am sure very educative to many Americans. I wondered at times while I and my friends were watching this programme how you were able to film some of the scenes in the programme.

I hope that as Rhodesia faces the confrontation of the coming months you and CBS will be able to continue giving such a balanced view of the problem.

I am looking forward to meeting you again.

Cordially,

Leonard Kapungu

Mr. Irv Drasnin
Producer
CBS News
35 West 45th Street - 5th floor
New York, New York 10036

BAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
29931 LAKE ROAD, BAY VILLAGE, OHIO 44140 216/871-2082
MINISTERS: HAROLD W. EWING AND HENRY F. WOODRUFF

March 30, 1977

Mr. Irv Drisanin
C B S Special Report
Program Department
Columbia Broadcasting T V
51 West 52nd Street
New York, New York 10019

Dear Mr. Drisanin:

You are to be thanks and congratulated for the tremendous SPECIAL report , "Whose Got A Right To Rhodesia" ! It was aired in our community March 28.

It was done with great technical skill and beauty ... but more importantly you were seeking truth ... sought to be objective ... and were very senstitive to the real issues which so often are glossed over.

We have had a long-time concern for the situation in southern Africa. We have had Bishop Muzorewa in our home several times and have visited in his home in Salisbury. You will find enclosed a copy of a recent newsletter for our church which carries a resume of a recent letter from the Bishop. Since last September we have been studying Christian Responsibility for World Understanding.

As a part of these we have shared several audio visuals. Last Sunday we used the film from the Information Service of South Africa- SOUTH AFRICA: THE LAND OF PROMISE.

I called your office on Tuesday to ask for the use of a copy of the film of your Special Report. We would like to use it with the folks at our church to provide them with additional input and a setting for discussion. We are seeking to raise the level of consciousness, and helping people to be sensitive to the issues in Africa.

I called at the suggestion of newcaster Jim Hale of Channel 8. Jim lives in our parish and shares in the church. Bob Huber of Channel 8 also suggested that I contact you.

We do hope that we will have the opportunity to view the program tape and discuss it. If there are any obligations for using it we will tryp to fulfill them.

Cordially,

Harold W. Ewing

Debora M. Nash
Village View
60, First Avenue
New York, NY 10009

March 29, 1977

The C B S Broadcasting Company
C B S Educational Services
383 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Gentlemen:

I was pleased and angered by your documentary "Who's Got A Right To Rhodesia (Zimbabwe)" on March 28th, pleased because education on these issues must be very important to the American people. Most Americans are living their routine lives with little or no conception of the injustice done to people in distant lands. However, documentary programs like the one on Rhodesia will teach the American public so much about which they know so little.

What angered me was the time you chose to broadcast this program. Why put it on at the same time as the Oscar Awards? Intelligent people wait until the next day to read the results in the paper, while the majority of the people who should learn about situations like those in Rhodesia, watch the Holywood events and thereby cannot gain any knowledge about the real world. People would rather watch glamorous movie stars than to concern themselves with conditions that might spoil their routine lives. But we all should know what is going on in the world, before we are caught up in trouble.

If you are interested in the education of the people, I suggest that you rerun the program at a time when a large portion of the public can watch it (not with anything else scheduled that might compete with it).

I thought the program was well put together and one can form a well rounded opinion of the situation in Rhodesia, it was very informative. Thank you for a job well done.

Yours very truly,
Debora M. Nash

cc: C B S T.V. Network Division
51 West 52nd Street
New York, NY 10019

STAMFORD ADVOCATE

STAMFORD, CONN.

March 29th, 1977

Irv Drasnin
CBS
51 West 57th street
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Drasnin:

Thank you and congratulations on your film "Who's Got a Right to Rhodesia."

I must applaud your work and interest in the subject.

My only regret is that the documentary was not afforded the largest possible audience due to the simultaneous screening of the annual Academy Awards Presentations on ABC-TV channel 7.

It was about time someone took the time and effort to learn the "other" side of the story and bring it into our living rooms.

Thank you again. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely yours,

Cynthia Dixon

Cynthia Dixon
Advocate Staff Reporter

Ms. Marian Steinberg 103 East 84th Street New York, N. Y. 10028

March 30th, 1977

Mr. Irv Drasnin
CBS News
524 West 57th St.
N. Y. N. Y. 10019

Re: "Who's Got The Rights to Rhodesia?"

Dear Mr. Drasnin,

I wondered, as I watched your excellent documentary, if there would be any accusations of bias or protests of unfairness from lobby groups directed at you as was the case with the other excellent documentary, "The Guns of Autumn". I didn't consider that one "biased" and I whole heartedly agreed with Mr. O'Conner's review in the Times of March 28th of this one.

Your position of objectivity in documentary making was clearly stated on the ALL ABOUT TV program on which you appeared at the time of the airing of "Guns". I had produced that program for Steve Scheuer.

Congratulations and thanks for yet another of your splendid pieces of impartial film making.

From a Grateful Viewer,

Marian Steinberg

Marian Steinberg

IRV DRASNIN
CBS NEWS

CBS SPECIAL REPORT WHO'S GOT A RIGHT TO RHODESIA
IS A PISS-POOR REPORTING JOB.

YOU PEOPLE AREN'T JOURNALISTS---YOU'RE PROPAGANDISTS
DEDICATED TO THE REMOVAL OF WESTERN INFLUENCE FROM
AFRICA.

WHY MUST "THE NIGGER IN THE WOOD PILE" IN SUCH
MEDIA EFFORTS TO SET BACK CIVILIZATION MOST ALWAYS
BE A JEW?

REFUGEE FROM MATTAPAN

GBH Educational
undation
5 Western Avenue
ston
ssachusetts 02134
' 492 2777
ex 710 330 6887

Mr. Irv Drasnin
CBS News
524 West 57th Street
New York, N.Y. 10019

March 30, 1977

olic Broadcasting
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Channel 57

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Conservatory of Music
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ersity of
Massachusetts
lesley College

Dear Mr. Drasnin:

I just wanted to say how much I enjoyed your Rhodesia film last night.

A good documentary is such a rare event on commercial television, but happily this was one.

Yours sincerely,

John Angier
Executive Producer
NOVA

JA:ela